

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15290 281729Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 /081 W

----- 033339

O 281559Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9266

INFO USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15290

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR US JA

SUBJECT: SOVIET TREATMENT OF MIG-DEFECTOR INCIDENT

1. SUMMARY: IN A FURTHER QUANTUM LEAP IN VERBAL OVERKILL, THE SOVIETS STAGED AN AMAZING PRESS CONFERENCE AT NOON ON SEPTEMBER 28, FEATURING LT. BELENKO'S WIFE AND MOTHER (BOTH NAMED LUYDMILA). TASS ALSO CARRIED THE TEXT OF THE SECOND SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT TO JAPAN ON THE INCIDENT, WHICH WAS HANDED OVER ON SEPTEMBER 22. END SUMMARY.

2. ASSUME DEPARTMENT AND TOKYO HAVE TEXTS OF MAIN ITEMS IN VOLUMINOUS TASS OUTPUT ON PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE RESIDENT FOREIGN PRESS CORPS. KEY POINTS IN OUR READING ARE FOLLOWING:

--THE STATEMENT BY BELENKO'S WIFE THAT SHE HAD BEEN "OFFICIALLY REASSURED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THAT YOU (BELENKO) WILL BE FORGIVEN, EVEN IF YOU HAVE MADE A MISTAKE." SHE REITERATED THIS POINT IN THE QUESTION/ANSWER PORTION OF THE MEETING AND WAS BACKED UP BY MFA REPRESENTATIVE LEV KRYLOV.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 15290 281729Z

AALETTER FROM BOTH MOTHER AND WIFE APPEALING TO PRES-

IDENT FORD AS "FATHER OF A FAMILY" TO "ORDER AN INVESTIGATION" AND TO "RETURN BELENKO TO HIS FAMILY." THEY APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT'S "HUMANENESS AND WISDOM."

--MAUDLIN LETTER FROM BELENKO'S WIFE DESCRIBING IDYLIC LAST DAY TOGETHER AND INVOKING SORROW OF YOUNG SON TO ASK BELENKO TO RETURN.

--THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, WHICH WAS GIVEN TO JAPANESE ON SEPTEMBER 22. 85)-4&3)6 3:#93 5#3 3-4)834 (SEPT 9) SOVIET STATEMENT, BUT IS HARSHER ON THE JAPANESE FOR REFUSING TO RETURN THE PLANE AND FOR ALLOWING "REPRESENTATIVES OF THIRD COUNTRIES" TO TAKE PART IN THE INVESTIGATION. IT ACCUSES THE JAPANESE OF "ARBITRARY AND LAWLESS ACTION," WHICH IS "UNFRIENDLY TO THE SOVIET UNION" AND CONCLUDES WITH A TOUGH WARNING AGAINST THOSE IN JAPAN WHO WOULD FOLLOW A COURSE OF "HOSTILITY" TOWARD THE USSR.

3. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE SOVIET-JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY DELIVERED A MESSAGE TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY THIS MORNING (SEPTEMBER 28) CALLING FOR THE RETURN OF THE PLANE AND CLAIMING THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE JAPANESE THREATENED TO DAMAGE BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE MESSAGE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE NEW JAPANESE DCM, MATSUBARA.

4. COMMENT: THE PRESS CONFERENCE APPEALS FOR BELENKO TO RETURN, COUPLED WITH FURTHER VERBAL BELIGERANCY TOWARD JAPAN, REVEAL THE ACUTE AND CONTINUING SOVIET EMBARRASSMENT OVER THE INCIDENT AND ITS AFTERMATH. IF BY SOME MEASURE-- EVEN A VIRTUAL PROMISE OF AMNESTY--THE SOVIETS COULD LURE BELENKO BACK, THEY MIGHT BELIEVE THAT THEY COULD DISSUADE OTHER POSSIBLE DEFECTORS. THERE IS NO INDICATION YET OF HOW THE PRESS CONFERENCE OR THE RECENT GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WILL BE HANDLED IN THE SOVIET DOMESTIC MEDIA.
MATLOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT DETENTION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, DEFECTORS, AIRCRAFT PILOTS, MIG-25
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW15290
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760365-1141
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760912/aaaaakfj.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET TREATMENT OF MIG-DEFECTOR INCIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006